

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Attached are two replacement sheets for Figs. 16 and 17.

REMARKS

Applicant has canceled claims 1 and 6-12 and added new claims 13-19 and amended the figures. Applicant respectfully submits that these new claims 13-19 and figures are supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that these new claims 13-19 would not be properly rejectable based upon the art of record in the prosecution of this application for the reasons set forth below.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 6-10 and 12 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Matsushima and rejected claim 11 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Matsushima in view of Desbarats.

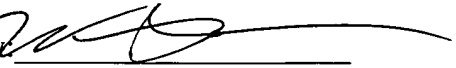
Applicant has carefully reviewed each of these art relied upon by the Examiner and Applicant respectfully submits that these cited arts fail to disclose or suggest all of the elements of Applicant's invention as now claimed in Applicant's new claims 13-19 when taken singly or in combination. In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art by the Examiner fails to disclose:

1. The cut portions and the guide passage;
 2. The elastic piece which is provided offset and the direction in which the elasticity is exerted by the elastic piece;
 3. The protective sleeve fixedly provided and the manner of the elastic piece fixed to the interior end of the protective sleeve;
 4. The guide passage and the relationship in which the elastic piece is inserted;
- and
5. The anchoring projections of the elastic piece.

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered as part of this RCE, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.

Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this Amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

Respectfully submitted,
KODA & ANDROLIA

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